

Senate Bill 292

By: Senators Hawkins of the 49th and Tolleson of the 20th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 27-4-133 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 certain regulation of the taking of shrimp, so as to change provisions relating to the opening
3 of certain waters for commercial shrimping under certain conditions; to provide for related
4 matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Code Section 27-4-133 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to certain
8 regulation of the taking of shrimp, is amended by revising subsection (a) as follows:

9 "(a) Except as otherwise specifically provided, it shall be unlawful for any person to use
10 a power-drawn net in any of the salt waters of this state for commercial shrimping for
11 human consumption. All sounds shall be closed to such fishing, ~~except that the~~
12 ~~commissioner may open Cumberland, St. Simons, Sapelo, St. Andrew, Wassaw, or~~
13 ~~Ossabaw sounds or any combination of such sounds at any time between September 1 and~~
14 ~~December 31, provided that he or she has determined that the shrimp in the waters of each~~
15 ~~sound to be opened are 45 or fewer shrimp with heads on to the pound, and the~~
16 ~~commissioner shall close each sound so opened when he or she has determined that the~~
17 ~~shrimp in the waters of the sound exceed 45 shrimp with heads on to the pound. The~~
18 commissioner may open any waters outside, on the seaward side, of the sounds between
19 May 15 and December 31, provided that he or she has determined that the shrimp in such
20 outside waters are 45 or fewer shrimp with heads on to the pound; and the commissioner
21 shall close the waters so opened when he or she has determined that the shrimp in such
22 outside waters exceed 45 shrimp with heads on to the pound. The commissioner may open
23 any waters outside the sounds during the months of January and February, provided that
24 he or she has determined that the shrimp in such outside waters are 50 or fewer shrimp with
25 heads on to the pound; and the commissioner shall close such outside waters so opened
26 when he or she has determined that the shrimp in such outside waters exceed 50 shrimp

1 with heads on to the pound. The department shall conduct inspections for such shrimp
2 count, and a determination by the commissioner shall be conclusive as to the count. The
3 commissioner shall provide public notice of the opening and closing of such waters, as
4 provided in this Code section, by posting a notice of all openings and closings at the
5 courthouse and on all shrimp docks and by such other means as may appear feasible. The
6 notices shall be posted at least 24 hours prior to any change in the opening and closing of
7 any such waters, provided that such notice is required only when waters are opened or
8 closed by action of the commissioner."

9 **SECTION 2.**

10 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.